

**From:** Adam [mailto:fig\_dawg@yahoo.com]

**Sent:** Friday, May 23, 2008 6:04 PM

**To:** Brown, Delores

**Cc:** mark@markpruner.com; wilson80@msn.com; FIGFARM@aol.com; jeetspdx@comcast.net

**Subject:** EIR Scoping Comments - Clarksburg, CA (Delta Vision)

Ms. Brown,

I'm writing you as a member of North Delta CARES (North Delta Community Area Residents for Environmental Stability) regarding the State of California's plan to turn much of the North Delta into a tidal marsh wetland. Moreover, as a person who was born and raised in Clarksburg, I am heartbroken at the state's plans to destroy the area where I grew up for short-sighted gains.

Governor Schwarzenegger was right to call for a Blue Ribbon Task Force to study the myriad issues confronting the California Delta. However, I feel there are several issues which are yet to be adequately addressed. Mainly:

- AM 1 • Why is the State considering turning an area which has never been a tidal wetland into a tidal wetland?
- AM 2 • Has the economic impact of destroying multi-generational agricultural land been considered? I am the fourth generation which has cultivated the soil in the North Delta. Clarksburg has only recently benefited from its appellation certification and the wine industry is in its formative years. In 2007, America for the first time became a wine-drinking nation (defined as one glass of wine per week per capita). Why is the State considering drowning these vineyards for "habitat restoration?" Surely the livelihood of these hard-working farmers and vintners deserve some consideration prior to the elimination of their way of life!
- AM 3 • What impact will flooding the North Delta have on land-based endangered species, such as the Swainson's Hawk? While flooding the North Delta would benefit water-borne species, has the committee considered the impact on other species? Is it not possible that by solving one problem, you would be creating many others?

As I'm also a military man, where bringing "solutions not problems" is a daily way of life, I offer the following solutions as alternatives:

- AM 4 • If the issue following Hurricane Katrina is flood protection, dredge and rebuild the existing Yolo Bypass. The Bypass has served its purpose and is an effective deterrent to floods. By rebuilding the existing Bypass, the State would reclaim an added measure of flood protection and not need to flood the North Delta.
- AM 5 • Build the Auburn Dam. The subject of building a dam at Auburn seems missing throughout this entire debate. Holding water upstream prior to Sacramento would not only provide flood protection, but hydroelectric power (environmentally sustainable) and additional drinking water (allowing more to flow to Southern California).
- AM 6 • If the issue truly is habitat protection, stop diverting water into the California Aqueduct. The cessation of diversion to Southern California would adequately restore the saline levels in the South Delta as well as providing for safe travel of fish species. Surely, the money being spent on North Delta "habitat restoration" could be diverted and better spent studying desalinization efforts in Southern California. Southern California is not short on water, it is only short on DRINKABLE water.

Ma'am, as an environmentalist in my own right, I applaud your efforts to protect and restore what

Mother Nature has provided. As a fourth-generation family in the path of this well-intended, though drastically off course, proposal; I ask you to consider all options prior to taking steps which are irreversible at a later date.

Regards,

Adam J. Marshall